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**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CURT WELDON
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DEVELOPMENT**

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Today, the Subcommittee on Research and Development meets to receive testimony on our nation's capacity to respond to the threat of domestic terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. This is the fifth hearing my subcommittee has convened since March of 1996 to address the threat posed to the United States and U.S. citizens from terrorist use of nuclear, chemical, or biological materials, and the need for improvements in the capabilities of emergency first responders and the overall capabilities of federal, state, and local emergency response agencies to respond to and mitigate the effect of such incidents. Today, the subcommittee will focus on the research and development programs that support domestic emergency preparedness for response to the threat. We will hear witnesses from the Departments of Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who will discuss their agency's research and development programs that support the domestic emergency preparedness program.

In January 1999, the President announced that the budget request for fiscal year 2000 provides \$10 billion for government-wide efforts to combat terrorism and to protect the nation's critical infrastructures. Of the \$10 billion, \$8.6 billion is for combating terrorism, including weapons of mass destruction, and \$1.4 billion is for critical infrastructure protection. Of these amounts, \$1,385 million is for domestic emergency preparedness activities and \$577 million is for research and development of technologies that deter, prevent, or mitigate terrorist acts. According to the report recently received from the Office of Management and Budget, the President's budget request provides a balanced approach to combating terrorism by continuing efforts aimed at conventional terrorists threats and enhancing efforts directed at newly emerging threat involving weapons of mass destruction, and represents an increase in government-wide funding for combating weapons of mass destruction terrorism of \$666 million from a total of \$719 million in fiscal year 1998.

The nation's domestic emergency preparedness program for response to terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction is complex and convoluted. Federal departments and agencies have overlapping responsibilities and programs. Congressional committees have overlapping jurisdictions. This results in a confusing picture for State and local agencies and for the local emergency first responder who would be the first on the scene in responding to a terrorist incident or natural disaster. Similar consideration extend to the research and development programs that support domestic emergency preparedness.

To address these issues, Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 required the President to increase the effectiveness of the domestic emergency preparedness program and to develop a more integrated program at Federal, state, and local levels. The Fiscal Year 1998 Omnibus Appropriations Act directed the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, State, and Treasury and the Directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence, to develop a Five-Year Interagency Counterterrorism and Technology Plan that would serve as a baseline strategy for coordination of national policy and operational capabilities to combat terrorism in the United States and against American interests overseas.

It is hoped that the Administration's response to this guidance will result in a more coherent, and integrated domestic emergency preparedness program.

To this end, the subcommittee is interested in today's hearing in gaining an understanding of the plans and programs of the Department of Defense that support the Federal domestic emergency preparedness program and how those plans and programs are coordinated and integrated with other participating Federal, State, and local agencies, and within the DOD. As examples, we will focus on the DOD's research and development program and related research and development programs of the Departments of Energy, Health and Human Services, and Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today's hearing will be conducted as a series of panels. The first panel will address from a Department of Defense perspective the intra- and interagency process for coordinating WMD domestic preparedness, the DOD support program for domestic emergency preparedness, and DOD research and development programs that support domestic emergency preparedness. The second panel will discuss the research and development programs of the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that support the Domestic Emergency Preparedness Program. We'll then invite all the witnesses back to the table for the question and answer period.

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